

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2011**  
**Archie Cole Middle School**  
**100 Cedar Avenue**  
**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:00 p.m.** Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Green to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Potential Litigation- SORICO, Fields' Litigation, Update on Lamendola Litigation and 42-66-5(a) (1) (2) Discussion of request under Article 12.3 of the Support Professionals Contract

**7:00 p.m.** Mr. Durant made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer to go out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Mr. Green then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Durant to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Cafetorium of Archie Cole Middle School at 7:05 p.m. by Chair, Dr. Deidre Gifford. Those in attendance were: Mr. Robert Durant, Vice Chair; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Green, and Mr. Jack Sommer. Mr. Paul Martin was absent. Superintendent Dr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Student Services Mrs. Paula Dillon were also present.

Dr. Gifford announced there was one vote taken in executive session regarding a personnel issue related to 12.3 of the Support Professionals Contract. The Committee unanimously approved the request (6-0).

**7:05p.m. Regular Meeting**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**II.Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III.Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Regular and Executive minutes for 4/5/11 were unanimously approved (6-0).

**IV.Recognitions**

The following recognitions were made:

- a. EGHS-Daniel Ling-Winner of the Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair Competition
- b. Cole-Chess Team –Winners of the Rhode Island Middle School Chess Championship

**V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio reminded School Committee members the Cole Showcase for the community is tomorrow evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. He will send an ALERT now message to the community. Tomorrow is also early dismissal for Cole and EGHS students due to senior project exhibition. Dr. Mercurio has also confirmed the Board of Regents meeting will take place in the Cole library on June 2, 2011 at 4:00p.m.

**VI. Action Items**

- a. Approval of Field Trip**-Cole, Gr.8, Class Day Trip to High Meadow Resort, Granby, CT, June 10, 2011
- b. Approval of Field Trip**-Cole, Gr.8, Close- up Washington, DC trip, May 22-25, 2011

**c. Approval of Field Trip** – EGHS, Art Department, European Trip, April 13-22, 2012

On a motion by Mr. Durant, and seconded by Mrs. Winters the field trips were unanimously approved (6-0).

**d. Retirement**-Margaret Devine, Cole

**e. Retirement**-Linda Alix, Cole

**f. Retirement**-Gail Tucker, Meadowbrook

On a motion by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Green, the retirements were unanimously accepted (6-0). Dr. Gifford noted that recognitions for retirees will take place during the first School Committee in June.

**g. Parental leave**- Tara Messenger, Cole

On a motion by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Durant, the parental leave was unanimously approved (6-0).

**h. Resignation**- Marcia Wicker, Cole

**i. Resignation**- Frank Lenox from .5 FTE of Academic Decathlon

On a motion by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mr. Sommer, the resignations were unanimously accepted (6-0).

**j. Appointment**- EGHS Principal

On a motion by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee unanimously appointed (6-0) Michael Podraza to the position of EGHS Principal.

**k. Appointment- Paul Arvidson Jr., Part-time Custodian, EGHS**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the appointment (6-0). It was noted this is a replacement position and this applicant has been filling in during the vacancy.

**l.Approval of bid- Dell Kace Network Management Solution**

This item was tabled at the last School Committee meeting for clarification of maintenance costs. Mr. Nettik stated Dell Kace is a remote solution brought forward by the Tech Advisory Committee. This solution will reduce the number of tech visits to each school as updates and troubleshooting can be done remotely. This management tool also has the capability to inventory all software being used. This technology will cut down on one technician. The cost of \$33,951 for three years includes the maintenance cost for three years which is \$10,000. After the three years, the maintenance fee will be 10% per year (approximately \$3500.00 per year). All upgrades are included in the three year fee. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the bid (6-0).

**m. Approval of bid-School World Web Hosting and Design Service**

This item was also tabled at the last School Committee meeting for clarification. Mr. Nettik told the Committee there were eight different proposals. Mr. Nettik noted that 40% of the monthly fee will qualify for a reimbursable rate beginning July 1, 2011. Upgrades will be done through this service and it is a turnkey solution. 75% of the \$8,000 cost is eligible for e-rate. Schools will be able to build their own event calendars and manage the content for their building. Training is included and all users will have a log in and security profile. The system has the capability to accept credit card data. The annual web hosting cost is \$5,000. Mobile APPS for this service will also be available. On a motion by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee unanimously approved the bid (6-0).

**n. Approval of bid- Child Outreach**

Mrs. Dillon explained the bid clarifying the bid is for Volunteers of Warwick Schools, Inc. Since SORICO has ceased operations, the district needs a new resource for screening children ages 3-5. The district will pay the same fee as they did with SORICO- \$67.00 per screen. East Greenwich parents can also be trained as screeners. Mrs. Dillon plans to hold the screenings at Eldredge School. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously approved the bid (6-0).

**o. Approval- Fund Balance**

The Committee voted to table this item since more information is needed from Mrs. Dias and Mr. daSilva at RIDE. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee unanimously voted to table this item (6-0).

## **VII. Discussion Items**

### **a.ESCO**

Mr. Jon Trombley from Schneider Electric and Mr. Henry Kates of the Finance Committee discussed the Schneider Electric energy proposal. Three project options were discussed (a base project, base project including new lighting with lamps and ballasts for various schools, and base project and lighting with new fixtures where needed). The annual energy savings guarantee of each option was discussed along with the project cost. Mr. Trombley explained the financial impact of the proposal and noted Schneider will work with National Grid to request a rebate for the energy retrofit programs and they will also work with RIDE regarding reimbursement. RIDE will reimburse at 40% and pays half of the cost in October and the other half in May. Mr. Trombley discussed the option of lease or bond through RIHEBC noting the RIHEBC rate is 4% now, but our financing may be 4.25% as it fluctuates. The bid process will need to be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup> of next year for October payment.

Dr. Gifford discussed the need to work with the town to possibly combine efforts on the ESCO project and to go through the competitive bidding process. Mr. Kates noted there was a competitive bid process for the audit which we have not paid for yet (cost approximately \$40,000). The audit cost will roll into the program cost if the district decides to use Schneider. The district has ninety days to decide whether to use Schneider or go out to bid. There was discussion whether the district would be able to use the Schneider audit if they go to bid and hire another company. Dr. Gifford would like a community member (who has ESCO experience) to come to the next School Committee meeting and discuss the benefits of using a competitive bidding process for ESCO.

### **b. Middle School Transition**

Mrs. Meyer stated the first and second day of school went well at Cole and students are happy with their new surroundings. There were some issues with speakers, but all in all everything went well. Classroom laptops were up and running for teachers. Andy and Brian from the technology department were on-hand and available to troubleshoot any issues. Mrs. Meyer noted there are still waiting for a part for the speaker system that works with the classroom laptops. The police department assisted with traffic and there was less back up on Cedar Avenue. There is no official dedication date, but the ribbon cutting will take place in September.

### **c. Mr. Cobain, Report on Winter Sports**

This item was tabled until the 5/17/11 meeting.

### **d. Field's MOU**

This item was tabled because Dr. Mercurio is still waiting to hear from DEM. Dr. Gifford would like to have the MOU done by the fall. Mr. Sommer questioned whether scheduling for the fields can be done with the new software that is being purchased for FY2012.

### **e. Budget FY2012**

Dr. Mercurio discussed the request from the town to reduce the budget by \$713,713. Reductions will come from teacher retirements, additional state aid, and Blue Cross. Other potential budget reductions include cuts in athletics, professional development, facilities, etc. Dr. Mercurio has also asked school administrators to look at reducing their budgets by \$5,000 and facilities by \$25,000. Textbook purchases may be reduced by \$30,000 by using digital text and tablets instead of books. There may also be a reduction in courier service from 5 days to 3 days. The district also has stimulus money from the jobs bill which was never spent. Mrs. Crawford explained Blue Cross claims have been at 9-10% and we will not receive an increase in cost.

Dr. Gifford questioned why there isn't a proposed reduction in athletics. Dr. Mercurio will discuss reductions with Mr. Cobain. Dr. Gifford questioned whether the fund balance can be used to purchase athletic equipment. Dr. Mercurio will check to see what equipment is being requested.

Mr. Green questioned the cut in professional development dollars. Dr. Mercurio said the district has funds in Title 2 and Race to the Top that will cover any professional development cuts. Mrs. Dillon also stated there are federal funds that will cover professional development and teachers are already slated for professional development using Race to the Top dollars. The funding will come from federal dollars, not local dollars. There is not enough time next year to expand professional development offerings next year due to the amount of training that will be needed for teacher evaluations and curriculum.

Mrs. Winters questioned where elementary administrators will cut \$5,000 because their budgets were level funded. Dr. Gifford would like to review the athletic budget before funds are cut from the elementary budgets. Mr. Durant would like to know how any potential athletic cuts would affect programs before cuts are made. Dr. Gifford asked about the process for professional development and Mrs. Dillon explained teachers' fill out a professional development request form which details the training, building principals' sign off and then send the request to the superintendent for final approval. Requests are reviewed looking at the need for training, alignment with curriculum, and the time the teacher has been out of the building.

#### **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

Dr. Gifford and Dr. Mercurio met with the town and expressed their concern about the asynchronous process the School Committee and Town Council use in developing their budgets. By the time the town gets the School Committee budget, they are only beginning to work on their budget. The School Committee would like to know upfront if there are limitations to their budget and would like the budget process to be transparent and a joint process between the town and the school district. It may be best to meet with the town when they are close to developing a final budget. May 12, 2011 is the deadline for the town's budget. Dr. Gifford questioned whether the Committee needs to meet again with the town and noted the Town Council President is open to a meeting with the School Committee. Dr. Mercurio will set up a date with the town.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted (6-0) to adjourn at 9:05 pm.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY